

COREA.

No. 109.

Mr. Foote to Mr. Frelinghuysen.

[Extract.]

No. 6.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Séoul, May 24, 1883. (Received July 5.)

SIR: I have the honor to report that I arrived at Nagasaki from Yokohama on the evening of the 6th instant, and left that port on the morning of the 8th in the U. S. S. Monocacy, arriving at the open port of Chi-Mul-Poo on the evening of the 13th, having been detained two days by stress of weather at the island of Fukuye. Upon our arrival two Korean officials came on board, asking the name and nationality of our vessel, and the object of our coming.

On the following morning the governor of the district of Tu-Chun came to pay his respects and to offer me the hospitalities of his house. He said that his Government expected me, and that on the evening previous he had dispatched a messenger to the capital to announce my arrival. On the morning of the 15th Mr. Hon-Yew-Sik, a vice president of the foreign office, and Mr. Kim-Sa Chol, a secretary of the same board, came off to the Monocacy, bringing to me a dispatch from his excellency, Min-Yon-Mok, president of the foreign office, inviting me to come to the capital with the view of exchanging the ratifications at that place. Upon the arrival of these gentlemen, the Korean flag, which had been prepared at the suggestion of Commander Cotton, was hoisted at the fore, and saluted with twenty-one guns, the first salute ever tendered to the Korean ensign.

With these officials I had a long conference, conversing with them through the medium of my interpreters without difficulty. I found them intelligent and well versed in matters pertaining to other countries. They said that a decided change had taken place within a few months in the disposition of their own people, and they hoped for happy results from these new and friendly relations with the United States. They seemed to understand and appreciate our policy in the East. Through them I accepted the invitation of the minister of foreign relations to proceed at once to the capital.

Sedan chairs and small Korean ponies with a guard were furnished us, and on the morning of the 17th, accompanied by Mr. Scudder, my secretary, my interpreters, Captain Cotton, and eight officers of the Monocacy, I left Chi-Mul-Poo, the port, for the capital. The road traverses ranges of hills with intervening valleys, and although a public highway, is little more than a bridle path. We passed many hamlets and villages. The wall of the houses are constructed of stones and mud, with thatched roofs. * * * The women fled at our approach, but the men and children remained to gaze at us, manifesting much curiosity but no animosity. They were clothed in robes of white cotton cloth, differing in shape from either the Chinese or Japanese modes, and wore upon their heads conical shaped hats made of horse-hair.

They seem to be of marked Mongolian characteristics, but unless I am deceived by their methods of dress, they are a more stalwart race than

the Chinese. I observed that the valleys were passably well tilled, and noticed fields of wheat, rice and millet. I saw a few groves of stunted fir or pine trees growing upon the hill sides, and a few willows along the water-courses.

Of the domestic animals the horses are exceedingly small, but the oxen and cows are large and well formed, and are used as beasts of burden.

Including frequent stoppages we were ten hours in reaching the capital, crossing the Yung-Wha-Chin River about four miles from the city, where we were met by the governor of the district, and one of the officials of the foreign office. From thence to the city, the wayside was literally lined with people. Thousands were congregated upon the hill-sides to watch our approach. I learned that they understood the purpose of our visit, and were somewhat divided in their opinions as to its good results. They treated us, however, with the utmost civility, perhaps because we were accompanied by officials and surrounded by guards. Long before we reached the gates of the city proper, we were passing through narrow, filthy streets, and after entering the city the same conditions seemed to prevail. The most imposing structures I saw were the gateways. There are four, called the north, south, east and west gates, from whence two broad streets cross each other at right angles. The houses are of one story, with mud walls and thatched roofs. Little attention seems to be paid to drainage. * * * The shops are small and insignificant, and while there are some things which show skill in handicraft, the majority of the wares are rude and coarse in texture.

We were escorted to two houses which had been prepared for us, the one where I remained being the house of Mr. Möllendorff, a German gentleman who holds the position of assistant secretary of foreign affairs, and who is organizing that office as well as the customs service. We were made comfortable in these houses of the better class, and every attention was shown to us.

During the evening his excellency Min-Yon-Mok, the secretary of foreign affairs, with other officials, called upon me and expressed gratification that the Government of the United States had sent its representative to exchange the ratifications of the treaty. These gentlemen were polite and intelligent, deprecating their own condition, and seemingly well versed as to the condition of other countries. Upon the following day the minister of foreign affairs called again, and I then arranged with him that a conference with a view to the exchange of the ratifications should take place the next day at 2 o'clock p. m.

At the appointed hour, with my secretary and interpreters, and accompanied by Captain Cotton and officers of the Monocacy in full dress, I went to the foreign offices, where I met his excellency, Min-Yong-Mok, minister of foreign affairs, and the presidents, as they are designated, of the four departments, political, postal, industrial, and revenue, with their secretaries.

Mr. Min informed me that he had been appointed commissioner plenipotentiary to exchange the ratifications. After an exhibition of our respective powers, I called attention to the modification made to Article VI of the treaty by the resolution of the Senate. The commissioner assenting to this, I prepared an addendum, which being duly signed in quadruplicate, the exchange of ratifications was formally made.

I have, &c.,

LUCIUS H. FOOTE.

No. 110.

Mr. Foote to Mr. Frelinghuysen.

No. 7.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Séoul, May 25, 1883. (Received July 16.)

SIR: After the exchange of ratifications, I called upon the minister of foreign relations and asked him at what time His Majesty would be pleased to receive me. He replied that he would learn the pleasure of His Majesty and inform me. I then placed in his hands a copy of the letter of His Excellency the President of the United States to the King, as also a copy of the remarks which I proposed to make upon the occasion of my presentation. On the following morning I was notified that His Majesty would grant me an audience at 12 m. At the appointed hour I was conducted to the palace and formally presented, when I placed in the hands of the King the letter of His Excellency the President, my letter of credence, and delivered the customary address, a copy of which I herewith inclose.

His Majesty replied in fitting terms, and I transmit a translation of the same.

The presence of the King was pleasing, and his manner most gracious, and I am informed that he manifests special interest in the treaty made with the United States, and that he has awaited its ratification with much anxiety.

I have, &c.,

LUCIUS H. FOOTE.

[Inclosure 1 in No. 7.]

Address of Mr. Foote to the King of Corea.

Having been deputed by His Excellency the President of the United States to proceed on a mission to Chosun, I have arrived at the capital of your Kingdom, bearing with me the treaty lately concluded between Your Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States. This treaty has been solemnly ratified, and the exchange of ratifications has taken place. I have also been intrusted with a letter from His Excellency the President of the United States, which I am delegated to deliver into the hands of Your Majesty. It is desirous that all intercourse between Your Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States shall be of the most frank and friendly character, and to that end, reposing confidence in me, by and with the advice of the Senate, His Excellency the President has appointed me as the representative of his Government to reside near to the person of Your Majesty. I am instructed to assure Your Majesty that in negotiating this treaty the Government of the United States has been actuated only by the highest motives, confident that the comfort and happiness of your people will be enhanced thereby.

In this progressive age there is a moral power more potent than standing armies, and the weakness of a nation is sometimes its strength. By thus departing from your past traditions you indicate your belief that national prosperity and perpetuity are not secured by seclusion. Radical as the change is, it can only result in material benefit to the ancient Kingdom of Chosun. Time has proven that the highest civilization is only attained by a free intercourse between friendly nations. It is thus that knowledge is disseminated and the productions and inventions of different countries become universal. Believing, as he does, that equitable treaty regulations tend to insure national integrity and to augment the well-being of mankind, His Excellency the President of the United States bids me welcome Your Majesty's Government among the brotherhood of nations.

It only remains for me to place in Your Majesty's hands the letter of His Excellency and my letter of credence.

[Inclosure 2 in No. 7.—Translation.]

Reply of the King to Mr. Foote.

MR. MINISTER: I am pleased to receive the gracious letter from His Excellency the President of the United States. I trust that he is in good health. I am glad that he has sent you as the representative of his Government, so far across the sea, to reside at my court. I rejoice that the friendship of the two countries is now firmly cemented, and I am certain that the friendly relations will always continue.

No. 111.

Mr. Foote to Mr. Frelinghuysen.

[Extract.]

No. 10.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Séoul, June 29, 1883. (Received August 10.)

SIR: On the 2d of the present month I left the U. S. S. Monocacy, with the intention of taking up a residence in Séoul. Although frequently assured that it would be impolitic, if not impracticable, to reside with my wife at the capital, I determined to disregard personal considerations, deeming this the proper course to establish intimate relations with Government officials, and the one most likely to inspire confidence in the people.

During a previous visit I had endeavored to find some spot which might be rendered habitable, and fixed upon the house or houses which I now occupy. The place to western eyes would hardly be considered very comfortable, and although of the better class is sadly out of repair. It is situated upon ground slightly elevated. * * * The buildings are of wood, resting upon stone foundations, underneath which are flues for heating, in the Corean fashion; the roof is made of tiles and the walls and windows of paper. The only terms upon which I could secure this or any other place was by purchase.

My family consists of Mrs. Foote, Mr. Charles S. Scudder, private secretary, Mr. P. L. Jouy, an employé of the Smithsonian Institution, Mr. Saito and Mr. In-Chi-Sa, interpreters.

Mr. Saito is a native of Japan, who will return to his home after the 1st of August. Mr. In-Chi-Sa is a young Corean who is studying English under my instruction. He will, with the consent of his Government, be permanently attached to this legation as interpreter.

The extremes of heat and cold are evidently very great here, and the only fuel to be obtained is the boughs of pine trees. In the way of food, beef, rice, eggs, chickens, and a few inferior fruits and vegetables can be procured; all else must be brought from abroad.

I have, &c.,

LUCIUS H. FOOTE.

No. 112.

Mr. Foote to Mr. Frelinghuysen.

No. 14.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Séoul, July 13, 1883. (Received August 29.)

SIR: The question of sending an embassy to the United States has been under consideration since my arrival here. In an audience with the King on the 5th instant, I took occasion to say that my Government

would be pleased to receive an envoy from His Majesty. On the following day, in state council, it was determined to send two plenipotentiaries with full powers on a special mission to the United States. The persons designated for this purpose are Mr. Min-Yong-Ik, a nephew of the King and brother-in-law of the heir apparent, and Mr. Hong-Yeng-Sik, a son of the prime minister. They are young men of intelligence, and somewhat versed in the ways of the world, having been in China and Japan. Being persons of the highest rank, their selection by His Majesty for this mission is undoubtedly intended as a special consideration for our Government.

I have reason to think that they will be instructed to confer with His Excellency the President concerning the relations existing between Corea and the other Oriental powers. In order to do this freely they hope to be furnished with an American interpreter who speaks the Chinese language. In their suite they have two Korean interpreters, the one speaking Chinese, the other Japanese. They desire particularly to learn something of our customs and postal service, our public-school system, and to examine our fortifications, arsenals, &c.

As other Oriental countries have done, Corea will undoubtedly require a large corps of foreign assistants. Our part in this work will depend very much upon the impressions and reports of these envoys. At present they have the highest opinions of our country and its institutions.

The United States steamer *Monocacy* being about to proceed to Nagasaki, Japan, for coal and provisions, upon consultation with Commander Cotton I have invited these envoys, with their suite, seven in all, to take passage by her, at the same time framing a telegram to Rear-Admiral Crosby, asking that the *Monocacy* be ordered to proceed with the embassy to Yokohama; otherwise they might be under the necessity of asking the same courtesy from a Japanese man-of-war, which would hardly be fitting. I have also written to Mr. Bingham, asking him to receive the envoys, and to telegraph the fact of their coming to you.

They propose to remain from four to six weeks in the United States, and then to return directly to their own country.

I have, &c.,

LUCIUS H. FOOTE.

No. 113.

Mr. Foote to Mr. Frelinghuysen.

No. 24.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Séoul, August 21, 1883. (Received October 1.)

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a report upon Corea. The data for obtaining accurate information are extremely meager, and this is rather the hasty result of personal observations, together with such facts as I have been able to glean from private sources.

I am, &c.,

LUCIUS H. FOOTE.

[Inclosure in No. 24.—Extract.]

Report on Corea, by Lucius H. Foote, United States minister, August 21, 1883.

It is very difficult to give accurate statistics in regard to the history of Corea. According to tradition the Kingdom had a mythical foundation more than four thousand years ago, when some supernatural being was found in a sacred place and made

King. For many centuries subsequent to this nothing is known in regard to the country. It is stated, probably from Chinese sources, that in the year 1136 B. C. Chosun was conquered by China. After this there seems to have been a succession of different dynasties, until about 150 years B. C., when, by internal wars, the country was divided into three independent states known as the "Three Han." In the year 935 A. D., an usurper named Wan Kan united the three states under one sovereignty and called the country "Kolio." Thirty-two successive sovereigns continued to reign under this dynasty until, in the year 1391 A. D., an officer named Li Sang Kai usurped the throne and again called the country Chosun.

His Majesty King Li Fui, the reigning sovereign, is the twenty-eighth successor of the present line, and the year 1883 is the four hundred and ninety-second year of this dynasty.

At different times the country has been overrun by China and Japan, and has paid tribute to each. In 1636 a Chinese army invaded Corea, and, entering the capital, made peace by exacting the following yearly tribute: 100 ounces of gold; 1,000 kilograms of silver; 10,000 bags of rice, 200 kilograms each; 2,000 rolls of silk; 300 rolls of mosi; 10,000 rolls of linen; 400 rolls of cotton; 100 rolls of better cotton; 1,000 rolls of paper; 1,000 rolls of smaller paper; 2,000 knives; 1,000 ox horns; 40 colored mats; 200 pounds dye wood; 1 skepel of pepper; 100 tiger-skins; 100 deer-skins; 400 seal-skins, and 200 blue rat-skins. Since this time the tribute has been greatly modified, but something is still paid. Each year an embassy goes to Peking with certain gifts and brings back the Chinese calendar. To receive this calendar is an evidence of dependence, and if it is not used it is regarded as an act of treason. It is necessary to report to the Chinese Emperor the accession of a new King to the throne, and to obtain his sanction to the same. Envoys going from Corea to China are treated as Chinese subjects, and all official documents from the Korean King to the Emperor of China bear the subscription of "subject." For two hundred years, however, China has carefully avoided complications with Corea, and has never materially interfered with her internal affairs. On more than one occasion she has disavowed responsibility for the overt acts of the Korean Government.

Since 1636 Corea has enjoyed a profound peace, and it has been her policy not to excite hostilities with her neighbors. To that end she has prohibited the working of gold and silver mines, lest the discovery of these precious metals should attract the lust of other nations. Unfortunately her system of seclusion has impoverished her people, and left the country stagnant.

The population is estimated at 11,000,000, and the number of houses at 1,700,000. The Government is an absolute monarchy, all power resting in the sovereign. He has three prime ministers or advisers, who hold their offices for life. There are also six heads of departments, and these, with three ministers, constitute the council of state. They are required to report the result of their work each day to the King in person. Of the departments, "I-cho" has cognizance of the appointment, promotion, and dismissal of subordinate officials; "Ho-cho" supervises the financial affairs of the Kingdom, the levying of taxes, and the coining of money; "Pei-cho" looks after the government of schools, the examination of students, and frames the code of ceremonies, &c.; "Piyong-Cho" controls the organization of the army, directs the manufacture of arms, and has jurisdiction over postal affairs; "Pin-Cho" attends to the organization of courts and the administration of justice. In addition to these is the department of public works and foreign affairs.

Important officials are invariably appointed from the higher classes, the common people taking little part in public affairs. The nobility seem to have a family distinction, but their rank depends upon the grade of the highest official position which they have occupied, and attaches to them for life. For this reason officials are frequently changed that rank may be conferred. The result of this system is that the people are divided into parties, and a bitter partisan spirit is engendered, each party seeking to secure the offices, with their titles and emoluments. Certain special privileges attach to officials, such as exemption from arrest. They can only be summoned by a writ from the department of justice. The Chinese method of examination for official promotion prevails. Examination of applicants takes place at stated periods, when diplomas, of which there are three classes, are conferred upon the successful candidates. The holders of these diplomas are eligible to corresponding official positions.

There are numerous private schools, but no general school system. Nearly all the common people can read and write the Korean language. In this language there are many simple books, but the learning of the country is the learning of China, and the better classes are well versed in Chinese literature.

The titles to lands are derived from the Government, and are carefully registered in local offices. The tenure depends upon the payment of taxes, which are levied in kind, and are onerous. * * * The only coin of the country is the copper *cash*, five hundred and twenty-five of which are equivalent to one Mexican dollar.

The roadways are narrow bridle paths, the only wheeled vehicles being two-wheeled carts, which, in some places, are made to transport merchandise. Bulls and Korean

ponies are used as pack animals. Persons of means and distinction travel on horse-back or in sedan chairs. Inns are said to be scarce and incommodious, but the people are said to be kind and hospitable.

Post-offices are established in the principal towns, and at some places on the public highways the Government maintains stations with post-horses, for public use.

According to official accounts, there are 1,300,000 enrolled militia in the country, but they are unaccustomed to drill and are without arms.

The territory of Corea is bounded on the north by the Shan-Yan-Alin Mountains and two large rivers which take their rise in these mountains; the one known as the Amno-kan, flowing westward, empties itself into the Yellow Sea and forms the natural boundary between Corea and China; the other, known as the To-Man-Kian, flowing eastward, empties itself into the Japan Sea, and divides Corea from Manchuria and the Russian territory. The Kingdom is divided into eight departments, viz, Ham-keung-to, the northeastern department, at the southern extremity of which is the open port of Wan-San; Peung-An-to; Whang-Hai-to; Kang-Wun-to; Keung-Que-to, in which department is situated Séoul, the capital, and the open port of In-Chun; Choong-Chung-to; Chun-Ra-to; and Keung-Sang-to, which contains the open port of Poo-san.

Corea is a land of mountains. The Shan-Yan-Alin range extends from north to south along the eastern coast. From this smaller ranges trend across the country. Everywhere mountain peaks are to be seen. In the central and western portion are several plains or plateaus called Naipo. These plains are extremely fertile, and for this reason Naipo is called the rice warehouse of Séoul. The country is well watered and fairly wooded, and the Government exercises much care in maintaining the forests. Many wild animals abound in the mountains, such as tigers, leopards, bears, wild boars, &c.; and pheasants, water fowl, and other game birds are abundant.

Of the domestic animals, the cattle compare favorably with those of our country. They are well bred and are used as beasts of burden. The horses are extremely small and inferior, swine are poor and ill-favored, and goats and sheep are rarely if ever seen.

During the season I have found in the market of Séoul apricots, nectarines, peaches, plums, apples, pears, and several kinds of berries. These fruits, however, perhaps for the want of cultivation and selection, are far inferior to those grown in the United States. The variety of vegetables is limited and the quality poor. Even the potato is unknown.

In spite of the severe restrictions, no inconsiderable amount of gold dust is extracted each year, and mines of gold, silver, copper, lead and iron are said to exist in all parts of the country.

In the northern districts wheat, barley, rye, cattle, ginseng—which is a Government monopoly—medicinal herbs, dried fish, honey, tiger and leopard skins, furs and hides are produced. The products of the central and southern districts are rice, silk, cotton, hemp, tobacco, wheat, corn, barley, beans, millet, dyewoods, fruits, vegetables, cattle and hides. Among the manufactures are silk, cotton and linen cloths, iron and stone ware, pottery, hats, shoes, paper, mats, fans, screens, combs, pipes, brushes, tiles for roofing, certain kinds of furniture, mechanical and agricultural implements, &c. Some articles exhibit a degree of excellence, but the majority are rude and primitive. Cloths are woven in hand-loom, and pottery is made by use of the wheel. Specimens of old bronze and porcelain are occasionally found, showing that in the past a higher degree of skill existed.

The majority of the houses are simple, with mud walls and floors and thatched roofs. The better class of houses have stone foundations, intersected with flues for heating purposes. Upon this foundation is a wooden building with tile roofs, the floors, walls and windows of which are lined with paper.

The clothing of the common people is made invariably of cotton or linen cloth, and in winter is wadded. They wear upon their feet straw or twine sandals with soles of rawhide, and upon their heads conical-shaped hats made of horse-hair. Their breeches are made very full and are divided below the knees and fastened at the ankles. Over this a long loose robe is worn, with flowing sleeves.

The people seem to be a hardy, vigorous, well-formed race, of medium stature; and while the yellow skin, almond-shaped eyes, and black hair of the Mongolian race prevail, men with light hair and beard and blue eyes are sometimes seen. The beard is suffered to grow, and the hair is never shorn, but is tied in a knot on the top of the head.

The wages paid to the laboring classes approximate fifteen cents per day, and to the artisan perhaps twenty-five cents per day. Slavery is said to exist in a modified form, and is even sometimes voluntary, as thus the poor man escapes extortion and oppression. The artisans and many classes of laborers, however, belong to powerful organizations or guilds, by which means they maintain a degree of independence and enforce their rights.

Crime is severely punished, and questions involving civil rights are decided by the courts.

The Korean nobleman, if his means will permit, maintains a degree of state, surrounded by his retainers, and goes forth to make his calls of ceremony in his sedan chair, dressed in silken robes, accompanied by a retinue of servants.

The women, married and unmarried, are kept in great seclusion.

Marriage is a matter of negotiation between the parents and friends of the parties, and is often concluded in childhood.

Unmarried persons of the male sex can be distinguished by the method of wearing their hair hanging down in cues. The women * * * adorn their heads with bands of false hair. Their dress consists of the broad breeches divided below the knees and fastened at the ankles; over this a short skirt and jacket.

Persons in mourning eat no meat and pay no visits. They are dressed in robes of coarse gray cotton cloth and wear immense straw hats, and when they go abroad hide the lower half of the face with a mask.

Smoking is a universal habit to which both sexes are addicted.

In conclusion, I would say that there are many industries here which might, by means of the cheap labor, be successfully promoted. There are mines of gold, silver, copper, lead, iron and coal to be developed. In the north there are said to be large forests of timber, for which there should be a market near at hand. Agriculture and cattle and sheep raising could be stimulated so as to produce a surplus for exportation; but there are difficulties to contend with. The extremes of heat and cold are great; there are no roads or means of transportation, and the policy of exclusion still has strong adherents. Korea will, however, soon require mining machinery, agricultural implements, hardware, glassware, cotton and woolen goods, coal oil, and many products and other manufactures which we might supply.

No. 114.

Mr. Frelinghuysen to Mr. Foote.

[Extract.]

No. 19.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, August 30, 1883.

SIR: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your No. 14, of the 13th ultimo, announcing the coming of a Korean embassy to the United States.

I confidently assure you that the President is much gratified at this friendly action of His Majesty the King of Korea, whose envoys, Mr. Min-Yong-Ik and Mr. Hong-Yeng-Sik, will be cordially welcomed by himself and the people of the United States. Every consideration will be given to their wishes, and ample opportunity afforded them to insure the successful accomplishment of their mission to this country, both in the interest of that of Korea and those amicable relations which we, as a nation, desire to cultivate with the Kingdom of Tah-Chosun.

I will thank you to properly communicate these views to the minister for foreign affairs.

* * * * *

I am, &c.,

FRED'K T. FRELINGHUYSEN.

No. 115.

The King of Tah-Chosun to President Arthur.

The ratifications of the treaty concluded between our countries having now been exchanged and friendly relations established, I now send to the United States of America, as minister plenipotentiary and envoy

extraordinary, Min-Yong-Ik, and as vice-minister Hong-Yeng-Sik, in order to convey to Your Excellency the assurance of my gratification.

Being in my confidence and instructed so as fully to express my ideas they will no doubt satisfactorily perform their duties, and I hope that full faith and credence will be given to them in order that the friendship of our countries may increase and that perfect harmony may be attained. I have no doubt that Your Excellency will fully share my views.

Done under my own hand and seal, in the four hundred and ninety-second year of my house, sixth moon, eleventh day (14th July, 1883).

[Signature and seal of His Majesty the King of Tah-Chosun.]

By order.

[Seal of Min-Yon-Mok, president of the foreign office.]

A true translation.

PERCIVAL LOWELL,
Foreign Secretary of Special Mission.

The representatives of Tah Chosun to President Arthur.

We, Min-Yong-Ik and Hong-Yeng-Sik, are present in person to address Your Excellency the President of the United States of America.

Together we have come to Your Excellency, as the representatives of the Government of Tah-Chosun. We desire to convey to Your Excellency, from our hearts, our sincere wishes for the health and welfare of Your Excellency and of the people of the United States.

The people of our countries having entered into friendly intercourse with each other, and having, both on our side and yours, bound themselves mutually to continue these happy relations, we pray that the people of both our lands may live forever, without change, in peace and happiness.

We beg to offer to Your Excellency two official papers from our Government; the first is a reply to Your Excellency from His Majesty the King of Tah-Chosun; the second is our letter of credentials, which we herewith ask leave to present.

A true translation.

PERCIVAL LOWELL,
Foreign Secretary of Special Mission.

President Arthur's address to the representatives of Tah-Chosun.

MR. MINISTER and MR. VICE-MINISTER: It gives me much pleasure to receive you as the representatives of the King and Government of Tah-Chosun. I bid you a cordial welcome.

We are not ignorant of your beautiful peninsular country, with its surrounding islands, or of their productions, or of the industries of your people, who in population number more than twice that of the United States when they became an independent nation.

The ocean which intervenes between our respective domains, has, by means of the introduction and perfection of steam navigation, become a highway of convenient and safe intercourse. You are our neighbors.

The United States from their geographical position, are, of all others, the nation with which the orientals should cultivate friendship and a

commerce which will prove to them and to us alike beneficial and profitable, and which must constantly increase.

This Republic, while conscious of its power, of its wealth, and of its resources, seeks, as our history shows, no dominion or control over other nationalities, and no acquisition of their territory, but does seek to give and receive the benefits of friendly relations and of a reciprocal and honest commerce.

We know you can be of benefit to us, and we think that when you become familiar with the improvement we have made in agricultural implements and processes, and in the mechanical arts generally, you will be satisfied that we can give you a fair return for the benefit you may confer on us; and it may be that in our system of education and in our laws you will discover some things that you will be glad to adopt.

It was fit and becoming that you should have made with us your first treaty of intercourse, amity and commerce.

You will be so good as to present to your King my respectful regards, and to express to him my gratification and that of our people that he should have seen proper to honor us by the visit of this embassy.

Gentlemen, I trust that while you are in our country you will have health and enjoyment.

It will be the purpose of our Government and people so to receive you that you shall carry home with you pleasant recollections of the American Republic.

The King of Tah-Chosun to President Arthur.

The envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States of America, Lucius H. Foote, brought me Your Excellency's letter, which I have read with care, and with the contents of which I have been delighted.

The treaty concluded last year has now been ratified and put into execution, and the natural result of this is that my country congratulates herself.

Your Excellency's minister, Lucius H. Foote, is on excellent terms with us; is just and upright; and in the transaction of his business at the capital is always in accord with the views of my Government. He will fully realize in action the intention of the United States Government with regard to his appointment. The relations between our countries, will, I hope and trust, be every day closer, an end which will be most gratifying to all.

I pray that under Your Excellency's beneficent rule the people of the United States of America will for ages to come experience the most blessed results.

Done under my own hand and seal in the four hundred and ninety-second year of my house, sixth moon, eleventh day (14th July, 1883).

[Signature and seal of His Majesty the King of Tah-Chosun.]

By order,

[Seal of Min-Yon-Mok, president of the foreign office.]

A true translation.

PERCIVAL LOWELL,
Foreign Secretary of Special Mission.